

Iowa Health Care Association/Iowa Center for Assisted Living Follow-Up to  
Committee

TO: Medicaid EW Legislative Interim Committee Members

RE: November 13, Follow-Up on Medicaid Elderly Waiver

I wanted to follow up from last week's Legislative Interim Committee meeting to say thank you for your time

The key point in the presentation that we want to reiterate is to ensure that elderly lowans without resources have access to long term care services in the setting that best meets their needs. With the upper limit set for services so low in Iowa, it has created a missing link for Iowa seniors. With Medicaid EW only paying up to \$1,117 a month for services, the elder who needs more services ends up in a nursing home at a higher cost to the state. We are not asking for a provider increase but an increase in the upper limit so vulnerable elders can access needed services in community residential settings (such as Assisted Living and Residential Care) that can meet their needs without entering a nursing home to soon.

We do believe the upper limit for EW services should be increased to 60% of the nursing facility rate (as outlined in IAHSA's report and at the ICAL Legislative forums). As we discussed in the forums, the Nursing Home Quality Assurance Fee is an alternative to assist these elders to access needed services before they would need to enter the nursing home.

As you can tell from ICAL's presentation, many of our members are passionate about being able to serve the elderly in their communities. While they have frustrations with all of the regulations from DIA and DHS, they understand the need for documentation of services related to the Medicaid program. We have began a lot of very good discussions with DHS in the last month on documentation, and are moving in a great direction on this to have it resolved very quickly.

Thanks  
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